

□ 1045

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

KEEP PUBLIC LANDS PUBLIC

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the new administration has certainly had its hands full reviewing hundreds of hastily conceived and poorly drafted regulations issued in the waning hours of the Clinton administration.

For example, the Clinton roadless initiative proposes to protect the environment by slamming the door and locking up 58 million acres of public land from public access. Certainly we need to protect our public lands and our sensitive lands, but this rule does not only prohibit the construction of new roads in these areas, it also closes thousands of existing roads used by Americans to enjoy firsthand the beauty of our public lands. Closing off public lands should be made only on a case-by-case basis and not by hurried and executive edicts.

Protecting our pristine environment does not justify banning Americans from accessing and enjoying these lands. We must revise any roadless initiative which would force Americans to experience the beauty of our lands by looking into a photograph instead of experiencing and appreciating nature's magnificence in a firsthand measure.

STRIKING THE GAG RULE

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a strong supporter of international family planning and in strong opposition to the antiwoman gag rule which is being debated before the Committee on International Relations right now.

First and foremost, this debate is not about abortion; it is about women dying to the tune of over 600,000 a year.

That is the equivalent of a jumbo jet crashing each day. And it is about saving women's lives.

The fact remains that since 1973, no U.S. Federal funds can be used around the world for abortion. Let me be clear: the global gag rule is about restricting foreign nongovernmental organizations in the use of their own money. This language would be unconstitutional in our own country, and it is unconscionable that we are exporting it to some of the world's poorest countries where it affects some of the world's poorest women.

The gag rule is enough to make me gag. It exports the worst of American internal politics. I urge a "no" vote in committee and a "yes" vote for the amendment of the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE).

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the HOPWA program, or the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, is the only Federal program that helps the housing crisis facing people with AIDS.

Rental help, mortgage assistance, help with utility payments, and information on low-income housing opportunities are some of the ways in which HOPWA helps low-income persons with AIDS in securing stable living environments and in living longer and in more productive lives.

Unfortunately, there is an estimated 40,000 new AIDS cases reported every year, and the demands for housing that will provide for the safety and stability for these individuals to benefit from drug treatments greatly outweighs the resources currently available. President Bush, however, has proposed to allocate \$277 million in his budget, an increase of \$57 million from last year's budget, to address the housing crisis facing people with AIDS.

I urge my colleagues to consider funding HOPWA and alleviate the growing needs of individuals living with HIV and AIDS.

GLOBAL GAG RULE

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, family planning saves lives. Whether we are talking about Sonoma County, California, or Somalia, women who have control over their reproductive health are better off, and so are their families. That is why we must repeal the global gag rule.

Denying women around the world access to a full range of reproductive choices not only limits their health care options, it leaves women trapped

in abusive relationships; held back by a lack of education and financial stability, and unable to care for themselves and their families. That is not acceptable.

Today, the Committee on International Relations will take up the measure offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) to end the global gag rule. I urge my colleagues on the committee and throughout this House to vote "yes" on her legislation and vote "yes" for women's rights around the world.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, the global gag rule will cost women around the world their lives. Women in the United States may enjoy reproductive freedom today, but our rights are only as safe as the rights of all women.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION TO STUDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

(Mr. PETRI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to establish a commission to take a comprehensive look at assistance programs and ways to reduce the disincentives that result when they are phased out.

Our task must be to help people move from subsidized jobs into self-sufficiency. Current welfare and tax policies put up tremendous roadblocks to that goal, as each time a low-income worker increases his or her income, the Government takes all or most of the increase away.

The miracle is that there are some who, perhaps out of pride, work their way out of this lower-income range. We must focus on this problem and look for solutions. The commission provided for in the legislation I am introducing today will help us do that, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this initiative.

THE SELL-OUT OF AMERICA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes are now open. The first foreign ship to dock in Cleveland, Ohio, carried 10,000 tons of steel from Russia. While mills are closing in Cleveland, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh, steel mills are closing all over America. Ten thousand tons of illegally dumped steel just came in to America. Unbelievable.

Think about it. It is getting so bad the Army almost bought, without Congress' interference, black berets for the Army from China. Beam me up. If our trade program is so good, why does Europe not do it? Why does Japan not do it? Why does China not do it?

I think it is time to put things in order in America, my colleagues. Enough is enough. I yield back the sell-